

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CLERK'S OFFICE
NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES
DOCKET NO. 2021-22-C

Application of Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934

Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Aiken Electric," "the Applicant," or the "Company"), filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the State of South Carolina. The Application was filed pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §214(e), the implementing rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690. The Application states designation is sought in the one (1) census block where Aiken Electric has been allocated Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I support by the FCC as a winner in the RDOF Phase I auction for service to the unserved census blocks shown in Exhibit B of the Application. According to the Application, Aiken Electric will use high-cost support it receives to assist with the deployment of its voice and broadband network to serve consumers throughout its proposed ETC Designation Area; to offer and maintain high-quality voice and broadband services to customers and to ensure the reliability of its network providing advanced broadband services to the public. Also, the Application states high-cost support will enable Aiken Electric to provide Lifeline discounted service to qualifying low-income customers who reside within the Company's service areas and who may otherwise not afford service.

A copy of the Company's Application can be found on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov under **Docket No. 2021-22-C**. Additionally, a copy of the Application is available from the Company's representative Frank R. Ellerbe, III; Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC, Post Office Box 11449, Columbia, SC 29211.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a Party of Record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **February 25, 2021**, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all Parties of Record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2021-22-C and mail a copy to all other Parties in this Docket.*** Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **February 25, 2021**. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2021-22-C.***

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE a virtual hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on **Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 2:00 P.M.**, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested Parties.

The rates proposed in the Company's Petition/Application are subject to potential modification by the Commission during the course of this case.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenors only): All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of Record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines: Applicant's **Direct Testimony** Due: **March 4, 2021**; Other Parties of Record **Direct Testimony** Due: **March 18, 2021**; Applicant's **Rebuttal Testimony** Due: **March 25, 2021**; and Other

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Parties of Record **Surrebuttal Testimony Due: April 1, 2021.** All Prefiled Testimony Deadlines are subject to the information as posted on www.psc.sc.gov under ***Docket No. 2021-22-C.***

For the most recent information regarding this Docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to www.psc.sc.gov and ***Docket No. 2021-22-C.***

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at **(803) 896-5100** or visit its website at www.psc.sc.gov.

1/20/2021